

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode via a monitoring server over a network between a sender terminal and one or more receiver terminals, the method comprising the following steps:

- estimating a bit rate value for at least one packet amongst a plurality of ~~packets of an initialization message~~ packets received by the monitoring server;
- comparing ~~that~~ the estimated bit rate value to a predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages; and
- authorizing transmission of the packet only if the estimated bit rate value ~~for that~~ for the packet does not exceed the predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 1,~~ wherein a transmission channel associated with a specific maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages is defined for each pair comprising a sender terminal and a receiver terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 1,~~ wherein estimating the bit rate value for the packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

- storing ~~the sizes of the latest packets of the initialization message messages sent by the sender terminal to the receiver terminal and received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration;~~ and

· dividing ~~the sum~~ sum of the sizes of the stored packets by the predetermined duration.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server, which claim 1, wherein the monitoring server also processes packets of session initialization messages.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 4 of monitoring messages, claim 4, wherein the packets of the session initialization messages are forcibly routed to the monitoring server consisting of the first processor server through which said session initialization packets pass.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 4 of monitoring messages, claim 4, wherein the monitoring server consists of a session initialization packet processor server of the network, and routing rules are defined to ensure that the packets of the session initialization messages systematically pass in transit through the processor server.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 1, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a monitoring server for monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode over a network between a sender terminal and one or more receiver terminals, the server receiving the packets from the network and transmitting the packets to the network, the method comprising:

- estimating a bit rate value for at least one packet amongst a plurality of ~~packets of an initialization message~~ packets received by the monitoring server;
- comparing ~~that the estimated bit rate~~ value to a predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages; and

· authorizing transmission of the packet only if the estimated bit rate value for ~~that the~~ the packet does not exceed the predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for transmitting multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages, including a network including one or more monitoring servers according to claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 2,~~ wherein estimating the bit rate value for the packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

- storing ~~the sizes of the latest packets of the initialization message-messages sent by~~ the sender terminal to the receiver terminal and received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration; and
- dividing ~~the sum-a sum~~ of the sizes of the stored packets by the predetermined duration.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server, which claim 2, wherein the monitoring server~~ also processes packets of session initialization messages.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server, which claim 3, wherein the monitoring server~~ also processes packets of session initialization messages.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 2,~~ wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 3,~~ wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 4 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 4,~~ wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 5 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 5,~~ wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to ~~claim 6 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, claim 6,~~ wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).